

Application No.: 10/081,118

Docket No.: 20198-00059-US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

The invention relates to a reagent for identifying and counting biological cells in a sample, in particular in a blood sample. This reagent comprises a cell lysing agent at a concentration allowing the lysis of a specific type of cells in this sample. This reagent also comprises a dye which can be combined with intracellular nucleic acids molecules, enabling to specifically stain the remaining unlysed cells. This reagent can be used for counting and characterizing cells using an automated analyzing system based on flow cytometry.